



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR RICHLAND SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

RICHLAND SPRINGS, TEXAS, February 1, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that Richland Springs Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) was selected to receive \$5,648 through the agency's Community Facilities Grant Program. The grant funds will be used to construct a 20 foot expansion onto the fire station to house a large pump truck recently purchased from the Texas Forest Service. The vehicle is currently housed outside the building in all types of weather conditions.

"This funding will enable Richland Springs VFD to park all five rescue and fire protection units in the station," said Daniel. "USDA Rural Development is committed to providing assistance to rural towns and communities to help them provide valuable services to their residents."

In Fiscal Year 2005, a total of \$991,000 in Community Facility Grants was obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development's Community Programs have awarded \$1.8 billion for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 1.16 million households in the process.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to serve Texas' more than 3.6 million rural residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Brownwood Local Office at (325) 643-1585, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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